

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 6-12 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claim 5 is objected to; and claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 6 are amended and claims 2, 4, and 5 are canceled. Support for amended claim 1 can be found in original claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is otherwise allowable.

I. Drawings

The Office Action summary page indicates that the drawings in this application are objected to. However, no specific drawing objections are specified in the Office Action, and Applicants believe that the drawings on file are in proper form. Thus, it is believed that no corrections are required.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hori in view of Mitani. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hori in view of Mitani and further in view of Inoue. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hori in view of Mitani and further in view of Sekiguchi. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hori in view of Mitani and further in view of Abe. Applicants respectfully traverses the rejections.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections, the claims are amended to incorporate non-rejected subject matter. In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claim 5, and intermediate claims 2 and 4.

Accordingly, the rejections are moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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